

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3733

TITLE: NATURALIST I

GRADE: S-18

DEFINITION:

Under supervision, researches, designs, conducts and evaluates interpretive programs in natural, cultural and environmental history for the public in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings; OR analyzes, recommends and assists in developing solutions and implementing plans relative to environmental problems, issues, and resource management of park lands; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

For Interpretive Program Positions:

The Naturalist I differs from the Senior Interpreter, Naturalist and Historian Programs in that the Naturalist I prepares and presents interpretive programs whereas the Senior Interpreter, Naturalist and Historian Programs are responsible for daily coordination and supervision of the site interpretive program staff.

For Resource Management Positions:

The Naturalist I differs from the Naturalist II in that the Naturalist I performs research and technical services associated with environmental protection and natural resource management, whereas the Naturalist II serves as assistant site manager with overall responsibility for managing not only the interpretive programs, but all activities and staff at a nature center, or assist with the management of an agency's resource protection program providing professional expertise for the agency in the areas of development plan review, natural and cultural resource inventory management, land acquisition consultation, and assistance in the development of the agency's strategic natural resource management plan.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Researches, designs, promotes, schedules, conducts and evaluates interpretive programs in natural and cultural history in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings;

Tailors new and existing interpretive programs to specific audiences;

Designs and fabricates interpretive exhibits for display, and designs interpretive brochures, flyers, newsletters and other nature center publications;

Provides oversight, direction and support to exempt paid or volunteer interpretive staff;

Greets visitors to the nature center and park and provides information and impromptu interpretation of the site as appropriate;

Promotes and maintains community relations;

Conducts associated public programs, as required;

Conducts field studies and provides recommendations for environmental problems, planning processes, new acquisitions and zoning questions;

Assists with natural resource management planning and designation of natural areas for acquisition;

Manages habitat of native flora and fauna;

Provides technical assistance to the public and other agencies on the natural history and conservation of native plants and animals, local geologic and other natural resources;
Consults with operating sites on natural resource management issues;
Responds to environmental issues and concerns registered by citizens or other agencies and coordinates resolution of problems.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of the natural and biological sciences including the theory, principles and practices of interpretation, conservation and environmental education, and natural area management;
Knowledge of native flora, fauna, geology and ecology of the local area;
Knowledge of local environmental issues and conservation practices;
Knowledge of park management practices;
Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
Ability to deal effectively with citizen inquiries and questions;
Ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with a variety of individuals including the general public.

For Interpretive Program Positions:

Ability to develop and present creative interpretive programs for both children and adults.

For Resource Management Positions:

Ability to analyze and recommend solutions to environmental problems.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience and training equivalent to the following:
Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a bachelor's degree in natural or life sciences, natural history, park management, education or a closely related field.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

None.

REVISED: March 17, 2004

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